

Washington Shoreline and Coastal Planners Group meeting

Bellingham, WA ~ September 30, 2009

Presenter Biographies

Barry Wenger

Barry Wenger has been a local government and state environmental planner since 1974, working for Ecology since 1986. He has served as the lead planner on a wide range of large projects and planning efforts such as power generation plants, oil & gas pipelines, port redevelopments, city waterfront revitalizations, Bellingham Bay Pilot Project, and Shoreline Master Program Guidelines & Guidebooks.

Michael Stoner

Michael Stoner is the Director of Environmental Programs at the Port of Bellingham. Since 1995 his primary responsibilities at the Port have included management of over 20 state-listed MTCA sites and performance of compliance audits at Port and tenant operations. Mr. Stoner's work has focused on marine sediment cleanup, habitat restoration and commercial property redevelopment. He is co-manager of the multi-agency Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot with the Department of Ecology. His current priority is the redevelopment of over 200 acres of inactive industrial waterfront property for mixed use, including new public access and residential in-fill. Prior to joining the Port, he served for 7 years in the Region 10 Superfund Branch of the USEPA. Mike has a master of science from the University of Washington, and has been a Certified Professional Soil Scientist since 1984.

Tim Stewart AICP

Tim Stewart has served as Director of Planning and Community Development Director for the City of Bellingham since 2006. He had previously served as Planning Director in three other cities: Shoreline, Washington; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He has been a regular lecturer at Western Washington University, the University of Washington and the University of Nebraska. In 2005-2006 he took a year off to teach land use law and other courses at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

Christopher Webb

Christopher J. Webb is a licensed professional civil engineer in the States of Washington and Oregon and a LEED™ Accredited Professional whose passion and technical expertise is focused on providing civil engineering designs that demonstrate the highest degree of sustainability and are based on ecological principles. Chris is a frequent speaker on the technical aspects of sustainability as it is applied in civil engineering. Chris' sustainable development project experience includes working with many local and state governments, private and public entities, utilities, and non-profit groups. As the principal of Chris Webb and Associates, he works as part of diverse design teams across the spectrum of project scales from the single lot to large multi-unit developments and from master planning through permitting and construction documents.

Renee LaCroix

Renee LaCroix has been involved in habitat restoration for 15 years. She holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Science and a B.Sc. in Environmental Policy and Assessment from Western Washington University. Currently, Renee is the Environmental Restoration Coordinator for the City of Bellingham. She represents the City's environmental interests in local, regional and interagency groups dealing with habitat protection, restoration and watershed planning and management. She develops and manages large-scale, in-stream and nearshore marine habitat restoration projects; manages two Washington Conservation Corps Crews that implement salmon habitat restoration projects; supervises of a variety of monitoring and assessment programs including adult and juvenile salmonids, macroinvertebrates, and fish passage barrier surveys, among others.

Chris Fairbanks

Chris Fairbanks has 17 years of experience in marine and estuarine sciences investigating fish population and habitat preferences, water quality, eelgrass and macroalgae ecology, density and distribution of geoduck clam populations throughout Puget Sound. Chris is currently working with the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot Project on an eelgrass seeding study to develop methods for collecting eelgrass seed and sowing the seeds in a restored nearshore environment. Mr. Fairbanks has an M.S. in Marine and Estuarine Science from Western Washington University and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Alaska. Specific areas of research and assessments that Chris specializes in are: • Marine vegetation assessments and mapping • Nearshore and estuarine ecology • Fish utilization of freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats • Environmental impacts of submarine cables and ocean energy production • Forage fish spawning assessments • Geoduck and hardshell clam assessments.